plants based on the Electric Are Furnace route and using steel melting scrap/sponge iron as raw material. It has also been emphasised in the Guidelines that the list of possible sites is only indicative. The choice of location is left to the best commercial/economic judgement of the entrepreneur who would need to undertake detailed feasibility studies before taking a final decision.

(c) The anticipated production of finished steel during 1996-97, the terminal year of the Eighth Five Year Plan is 23.504 million tonnes.

Loss suffered by FCI

2421. SHRI NITISH KUMAR :
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN :
JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India has suffered losses worth crores of rupees during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, year-wise and State/Union Territory-wise; and

(c) the reasons therefor in each case;

(d) whether the Government have conducted any enquiry into the causes of losses;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check such losses?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (f). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Waiting List for Telephone Connections

2422. SHRI A. SAMPATH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of pending applications for grant of telephone connections, as on date, State-wise; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken to clear these applications expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The statewise number of pending applications for grant of telephone connections as on 30.6.96 is given in the Statement attached.

(b) It is proposed to provide 24.5 lakh new telephone connections during 1996-97. The remaining waiting list will be progressively cleared during 1997-98.

STATEMENT

Details regarding number of pending applications for grant of telephone connections as on 30.6.1996.

S.No.	Name of State	Waiting List as on 30.6.1996
1.	Andhra Pradesh	175379
2.	Assam	22590
3.	Bihar	48856
4.	Gujarat (including Dadra, Diu, Daman & Nagar Haveli	254602
5.	Haryana	91888
6.	Himachal Pradesh	37696
7.	J and K	32288
8.	Karnataka	195300
9.	Kerala (Including Lakshadeep (U.T.)	505870
10.	Madhya Pradesh	48326
11.	Maharashtra (including Goa, excluding Bombay)	278507
12.	Bombay	41682
13.	North East (including Arunachal, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura)	10510
14.	Orissa	22427
15.	Punjab (including Chandigarh (U.T.)	206872
16.	Rajasthan	161462
17.	Tamil Nadu (including Pondicherry (U.T.)	394990
18.	Uttar Pradesh	152115
19.	West Bengal (including Sikkim)	126050
20.	Delhi	51165
	Total	2858583

National Minorities Finance and Development Corporation

2423. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons benefited ever since the National Minorities Finance and Development Corporation came into existence;

(b) the extent to which the Corporation has achieved success in improving the economic conditions of the beneficiaries; and

(c) the concrete steps taken by the Government to make this Corporation successful and useful?